

Johnston County, 98; Lee County, 40; Nash-Rocky Mount, 162; Sampson County/Clinton City schools, 76; Wilson, 34; and Wake County, a whopping 530.

That would not be such an astounding number, except for the fact our State has passed a \$1.8 billion bond issue and each county has borrowed money and worked as hard as they could. The problem is, we are the fourth fastest growing state for students in the country. Congress must act now to help get these children out of trailers.

For nearly 4 years now I have worked with my colleagues in this House on both sides of the political aisle to provide leadership on this issue and pass a common sense bill that will help our local folks deal with this critical problem.

We have come together in support of H.R. 4094, the bipartisan Rangel-Johnson bill that has a number of sponsors. This important bill will provide \$25 billion in school construction bonds for our local schools to build new schools for our children and renovate others.

Madam Speaker, the clear majority of this House is in support of this piece of legislation. 228 Members, Republicans and Democrats alike have signed on as cosponsors. The House will pass this bill, if we can only get a chance to vote on it. The President has stated that he will sign this important bill into law the minute it reaches his desk.

We have an opportunity to provide real leadership and pass this measure that will help further educational progress for all the children in this country. But, unfortunately, the Republican leadership of this House has chosen to choose a path of confrontation and gridlock over the opportunity for consensus and progress. Rather than working together to produce a common sense solution to the need for school construction, the Republican leadership brought to this floor yesterday a bill that contained a sham school construction measure.

Madam Speaker, the Members of this House have an obligation, a solemn responsibility, to work together to craft common sense solutions to the problems facing America's people. But, rather than meet this responsibility, Republican leadership has chosen to pass a sham proposal and a bill they know would be vetoed.

The Republican tax bill contains many provisions that I support, but the sad fact is they chose to include many good provisions in a fundamentally flawed bill.

In addition, the leadership yesterday pushed through an appropriations bill that provided \$687 million in grants to states to build prisons. Now, I support the need for prisons in certain areas, but prisons should not be a higher priority than our schools for our children.

What does it say about our values that we can pass millions of dollars in prison aid, yet leave our children in overcrowded schools, trapped in rundown facilities and stuck in trailers? Prisons ought not to be nicer than our schools.

In conclusion, remain an optimist. We still have time to pass a school construction bill before we adjourn this Congress, and I urge the Republican leadership to allow us to do so.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EDWARD A. PEASE AND THE HONORABLE DAVID M. MCINTOSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, we are going to be losing two of our Congressmen from Indiana, and they are both very fine Congressmen. One of them is ED PEASE, whom all of us have seen in the Chair many, many times over the past couple of years. He has done a great job as the Speaker pro tempore on many occasions.

ED was first elected to the Congress just 4 years ago, and we hate to see him leave so quickly after being here such a short time. I had the pleasure of serving with him in the Indiana State Senate back in the early eighties, and everybody there thought he was an extraordinary Senator, as well as my colleagues here in the House feel today that he is an extraordinary Congressman.

ED was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was an outstanding student. He graduated from Indiana University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction. He graduated from Indiana Law School, magna cum laude in 1977. Of course, he went on to be involved in civic activities as well as politics.

He served, as I said, in the Indiana State Senate from 1980 through 1992, and he was chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary and chairman of the Indiana Commission on Trial Courts and chairman of the Indiana Code Revision Commission.

In the private sector, he served as a City Attorney for the city of Brazil, and as General Counsel for the Indiana State University. He has also been in a partner in the law firm of Thomas, Thomas & Pease. In 1993, ED became the Vice President for University Advancement at Indiana State University, and he was very highly regarded. He is one of those people over there they would like to have considered down the road, and maybe immediately, as president of Indiana State University.

ED PEASE is one of the finest men I have known. He has been a great Congressman, a great leader in this body. We will miss you a lot, ED. I hope you have a great deal of success in the fu-

ture, and you come back and visit your colleagues in the Congress often.

I would also like to say our candidate for Governor in Indiana right now is Congressman MCINTOSH. DAVID MCINTOSH has been here since 1994. He has been an outstanding Congressman. He served as one of my subcommittee chairmen on the Committee on Government Reform. He has done an exemplary job as well there. He is another person we are going to miss a great deal.

DAVID, before he became a Congressman, worked with the vice president at the White House in the Executive Office Building down there on the Council on Competitiveness. He was the Executive Director there. He did an outstanding job for the Vice President Quayle, and we felt when he came to Congress were going to have him with us for a long time and he would be a real asset to us. He has been, but, unfortunately, he decided he wanted to become the chief executive of Indiana. We all wish him well in the campaign, and we will know in another week or so whether or not he has been successful.

In any event, we certainly wish him the best in the future, whether or not he becomes the Governor of Indiana, and we also hope, DAVID, you will come back and visit us often, because you have been an outstanding Congressman and a very good friend.

□ 1430

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM CLAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have a very privileged opportunity today, and it is one in which I feel that is at an especially honorable time.

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to the gentleman from Missouri, our friend, our colleague, Congressman BILL CLAY. There are not many people around like BILL CLAY. He is a unique person. He is a scholar, a mentor, a founder, and an inspirational leader, a fighter, and a fierce person for equity and civil rights for all.

BILL CLAY is announcing his retirement in this body after the close of the 106th Congress. BILL CLAY is honored, Madam Speaker, to take his place among the great leaders of this Nation who have successfully and courageously walked the halls of power in Congress.

BILL CLAY has been an unwavering advocate for civil rights. We are going to miss him, Madam Speaker. He has walked in such a way that we are standing on his shoulders, those of us who are here today, even when it was not popular to do so.